

**From:** Steve Tow  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I wish I had proper remedy for this monopolist, but I don't. What I can say is that the need to pull out all the stops in order to contain this predator is absolutely necessary. The evidence against MS is stacked to the ceiling. There is no real question they did multitudes of things wrong in terms of fair competition. From false incompatibilities to strong arming vendors from shipping anything but microsoft products. It's all there and obvious. They have made a mint out of manipulating or simply screwing six ways from Sunday any company or competition if it had a chance to make a buck, squash that competition, or generally help MS at the cost of others. This monopoly would be acceptable if it were a company doing it through legal and ethical means. Just being a monopoly is not a problem if it is acquired. It is a problem if it is stolen from the hands of others.

In the years they spent building..er..stealing..this sector of the market they also hindered innovation to an alarming degree. I think anyone in the know in the OS department knows that a close look at Win95 vs WinXP reveals nothing but an evolution of face lifts with virtually no new features or technology. What have they done over the 7 years? Well, add new decorations, things like DVD and media players (things that don't take 7 years given their workforce), and last but not least, spent hours upon hours coming up with a way to make sure they can milk their already financially strained customers for more money. Regardless of BG's pseudo-victim-esque cries of "I need the freedom to innovate!", there has been nothing but a near halt of real innovation in the MS camp and none from any other camp because MS has elimininated the competition that could breed innovation...

I am a technological purist. I don't give a f\*ck about the all mighty dollar. I just want to see true innovation in a free market. It might be deemed too dramatic to say that this hinderance of innovation might keep me from setting foot on Mars before I die, but this could very well be true and cannot be discounted. As long as MS is making \$\$, they won't really care about techology and innovation. They are a marketing company, not a technical company...

The sad truth is that regardless of my attitude towards the money vs innovation, the final factor may be the money. Money buys people, opinions, and even court cases. The many so-called 'experts' that are surely making a case for the other side of this debate are certainly well paid to give those opinions. I would like to think that the one thing this corporate bully could not buy or manipulate is the American judicial sytem. Only time will tell on that. Don't let it happen....

Please put some serious restraints on this beast before they get away and start eating up competition once again...

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